

recreation, but also for attributes that create unique conditions for endemic plant communities. They fully merit—and need—the protection that will come from their designation as wilderness.

The bill itself is very simple. It would just add the Spanish Peaks area to the list of areas designated as wilderness by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. As a result, all the provisions of the act—including the provisions related to water—would apply to the Spanish Peaks area just as they do to the other areas on that list. Like all the areas now on that list, the Spanish Peaks area covered by this bill is a headwaters area, which for all practical purposes eliminates the possibility of water conflicts. There are no water diversions within the area.

Mr. Speaker, enactment of this Spanish Peaks bill will not finish the job of protecting the Federal lands in Colorado that need the protection that comes with designation as wilderness. We need to provide that protection for lands in Rocky Mountain National Park, as would be done by my bill—H.R. 302—now pending before the Committee on Resources, and also for other areas of our State, including many managed by the Bureau of Land Management. I will continue to work to achieve the protection of these areas. But in the meantime, we should act without delay to pass this important measure for the Spanish Peaks area.

ONONDAGA COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
ROBERT STONE, RETIRING
AFTER 24 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Onondaga County Commissioner of Social Services, Robert Stone, for 24 years of dedicated public service as he begins his retirement this month.

Bob Stone is truly a leader in our community. His professionalism, integrity, and leadership throughout his tenure are a testament to his character and high standard in public service.

The commissioner worked tirelessly to revitalize our social service system by opening lines of communication within the department, securing grants, and working with State legislators to produce responsible social service law. The result has been a productive, sensitive, and often innovative department.

Central New York owes a debt of gratitude to Commissioner Stone for his exemplary public service record and his caring approach to helping the truly needy. He joins a very distinguished group of former commissioners of social services, such as John Lascaris and William Walsh.

It is with great admiration and respect that I wish Commissioner Robert Stone the best as he retires from public service and thank him. He leaves our community better for his presence.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA PORTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of Paula Porter, the outgoing chairman of the board of the Victorville Chamber of Commerce in Victorville, CA. Paula was recently honored for her dedicated advocacy on behalf of the citizens and business community of the Victor Valley.

Paula Porter graduated from Victor Valley High School and is a 1981 graduate of the University of Redlands with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. A native Californian and seventh generation native of San Bernardino County, she works as vice president and treasurer of Porter Real Estate. She is the former city clerk and assistant to the city manager for the city of Victorville. Over the years, she has also served in a variety of civic and community oriented capacities.

Paula's longstanding commitment to and support of the Victorville Chamber is demonstrated through her fine leadership and many years of active participation. She was first elected to the board in 1992 and has served in many capacities—vice president for membership services, vice president for financial services, vice president for community services, vice president for business services, and vice president for economic development.

As chairman of the board, Paula has developed a number of new ventures for the chamber including participation in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Accreditation Program and developing a partnership with the Victor Valley Daily Press newspaper. Over the years, her work has also resulted in technological advances for the chamber including the addition of new computers and an Internet web site.

Mr. Speaker, Paula Porter provides an example of leadership that is deeply respected and admired by her professional colleagues and the community at large. I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Paula's many admirers in thanking her for such dedicated service and wishing Paula and her husband, Bill, the very best in the years ahead.

STATEMENTS OF KRISTY LAVERY,
TARO BEDELL, KELLY JENNINGS,
AND TORI TILLATOSN,
ESSEX TECHNICAL CENTER,
REGARDING TEENAGE SMOKING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by high school students from Essex Technical Center in Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Ms. LAVERY. Teenage smoking is a pressing issue in today's society. We feel there is a need with the tobacco industry to try to stop the sale of tobacco to minors. In recent news a big deal was made involving the advertise-

ment of tobacco. For many years the Joe Camel figure in Camel cigarettes has been under the gun. The government believes that advertising is promoting smoking to the young. This is a valid concern considering 3,000 young people a day become a regular smoker according to the 1994 report of the Institute of medicine from the National Academy of Sciences. The number keeps climbing and in 1995, 4.8 percent of students said they had smoked in the last 30 days. Two years earlier in 1993, 3.5 percent said they had smoked in the last 30 days. Two years earlier in 1993, 3.5 percent said they had smoked within the last month. Most of these students admit to buying them without showing proof of ID.

Should the responsibility of cracking down on selling be the sole job of the police? For now it is. It also has to do with store owners and enforcement of punishment and fines. Steps to put more responsibility on store owners are being taken such as the new photo ID law and carding everyone who looks under 27. As a 17-year-old I can tell you I have bought cigarettes when I was younger and had no problem. I have noticed a change in carding more now than I did when I was 15.

The problem is that cigarettes are too accessible to kids. We took a survey at Essex Technical Center on Do you smoke, why or why not? 64 percent of the people said that they had smoked. 35 percent said that they started because of peer pressure. The majority of the non-smokers said they did not smoke because it was gross and it kills you.

We have a tape of interviews from students. We also have those surveys that we did that we can give you and we did. Perhaps we should also show you why the percentages chose to smoke. I feel I have smoked previous in my young years and I quit it because I do not feel I want to die like that. I think it is a disgusting death.

Ms. BEDEL. Yes, it causes cancer, lung cancer, emphysema, and for young kids it is mostly the fact that the health is—you know, in physical activity, you know, people aren't involved in sports as much and I think it is social. It really has to do with the social part of school.

Ms. LAVERY. A lot of it is peer pressure. They see their friends doing it and everyone picks on you if you do not do it and you get curious and you try doing it and then it is very addictive.

Ms. BEDELL. I do not think it has to do with people picking on other people about it, I think it has to do with like the younger grades in the high school see seniors or juniors in high school smoking and I think that that has a lot to do with it. I know at the Tech Center we go to you are not allowed to—well you cannot smoke on any school property anymore and we have to go off school property to smoke, and I think it is just—it is not a privilege because we do not have a privilege, we have to leave, but I think the younger students see it as a way to get out of school or a way to try to fit in with the older kids. Government control over smoking is going overboard but the money that is spent on smoking is outrageous and kind of ridiculous considering the fact that more and more teenagers are smoking each year. And I agree with the new photo ID law, I am all for that, but I do not think it is being watched enough, I do not think it is being used in many cases in small businesses, and I think it has to start at home, that the government has to take it out of the police's hands and like storeowners' hands and put it into the homes and you know, teach parents how to talk to their kids about smoking because it starts at home.